

WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

FOR NORTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES

October 2004



Minor deviations from seasonal norms

In September, **Adams County's** unemployment rate fell more gradually than usual. This left the rate 1.9 percent above its typical September level, which is a sharp contrast from the beginning of 2004, when rates were well below typical. Total nonfarm employment estimates have generally hugged year-ago levels over the last 12 months. Since June, Leisure & hospitality employment estimates have failed to meet year-ago levels by wider margins.

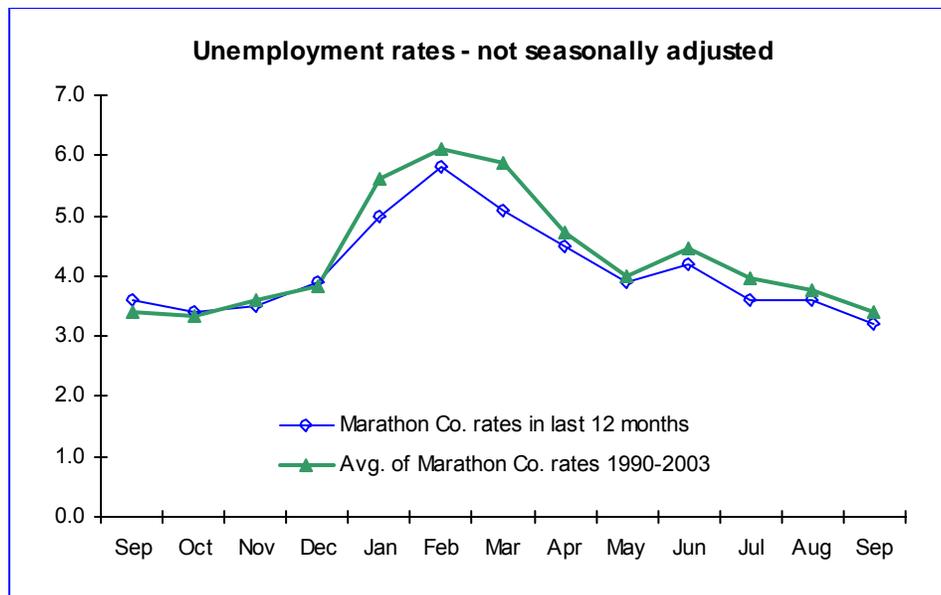
Since April, **Forest County's** unemployment rates have been below typical, an oddly sharp change from the previous trend. Total nonfarm employment estimates are as far below year-ago levels as they have been at any point in the last 12 months. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates were only slightly below year-ago levels during the summer months, but September's estimate was further below the year-ago trend than any leisure & hospitality estimate has been since last December.

In **Langlade County**, the unemployment rate dropped faster than it usually would in September, bringing it closer to the typical level than it has been in the last 12 months. Total employment estimates have swung from slightly below year-ago levels to slightly above, and back again, so the current estimate (slightly above) is only mildly encouraging. The leisure & hospitality employment estimate fell faster this September than last, but remains above year-ago levels.

Lincoln County's unemployment rate fell faster than usual in September, leaving it slightly below the typical September level. In August and September, total employment estimates were as far below year-ago levels as they have been in the last 12 months. Construction and manufacturing employment estimates slid further below year-ago levels than they have been in the last 12 months.

September than last, the leisure & hospitality employment estimate remains above year-ago levels, but less so than in any month since February.

In **Portage County**, the unemployment rate fell nearly as fast as it usually does, leaving the September level almost as close to typical as the August level had been. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates remain



In **Marathon County**, the unemployment rate remains 0.2 percent below typical levels, which is roughly consistent with the trend since April. Leisure & hospitality employment estimates remain above year-ago levels, but declined faster this September than last, leaving them closer to year-ago levels than they have been since April. The manufacturing employment estimate fell in synch with year-ago declines, remaining above year-ago levels.

Instead of the usual September drop, **Oneida County's** unemployment rate saw a September increase. At 0.9 percent above the typical September level, the rate is roughly consistent with several of the last 12 months. Falling more sharply this Sep-

above year-ago levels, but by roughly half the margin they had been in May and June. Manufacturing employment estimates remain below year-ago levels. Until July, the gap between current estimates and year-ago estimates appeared to be narrowing, but the gap grew in August and September.

In stead of rising as it typically does in September, **Vilas County's** unemployment rate fell slightly. At 0.7 percent above the typical September level, this rate is about as close as has gotten to normal in the last twelve months (except April). Leisure & hospitality remains below year-ago levels and the gap expanded in September.

The unemployment rate in **Wood County** fell more slowly than usual and sits a bit further above typical than in August, but only three months out of the last 12 saw more encouraging rates. Manufacturing employment estimates are closer to year-ago levels than they have been for much of the last 12 months, but the gap between current estimates and year-ago estimates remains considerable.

Employment by industry estimates - not seasonally adjusted

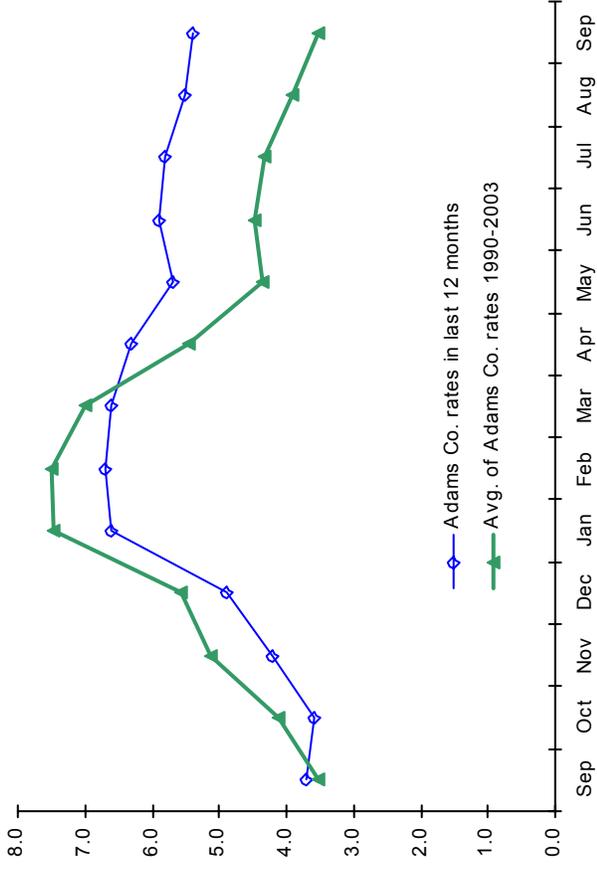
	Wisconsin		Adams		Forest		Langlade		Lincoln					
	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change				
Total jobs, all industries*	2,851,200	-3,200	52,900	4,000	-30	-50	3,400	10	-150	30	11,900	-70	-210	
Const., min'g & nat. resources	137,600	-4,300	1,400	260	-20	10	150	-10	0	10	350	-20	-70	
Manufacturing	519,800	-5,200	12,600	450	0	20	330	0	-10	-40	3,500	-20	-140	
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	442,000	-3,800	8,600	480	-20	-10	310	-10	0	30	1,750	-10	-20	
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	110,000	3,700	2,100	130	0	-10	170	10	0	0	360	20	0	
Financial activities	161,600	-500	2,600	100	0	10	100	0	0	0	800	-10	30	
Education & health services	380,100	4,900	10,200	490	0	20	380	0	10	30	960	10	0	
Leisure & hospitality	259,200	-16,100	3,300	550	-100	-70	190	-70	-60	0	1,090	-60	20	
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	444,900	-3,100	13,200	410	10	40	200	0	-20	10	1,050	0	0	
Government	396,000	21,200	-1,100	1,190	100	-50	1,590	90	-70	-20	2,000	20	-30	
Civilian Labor Force**	3,099,800	-46,100	25,900	8,600	-190	100	5,000	-50	-230	-230	14,400	-340	-400	
Employed	2,973,300	-33,600	43,500	8,200	-170	-50	4,800	-20	-200	-70	13,800	-260	-260	
Unemployed	126,500	-12,500	-17,600	460	-20	150	210	-30	-30	-160	610	-80	-140	
Unemployment rate (%)	4.1	-0.3	-0.6	5.4	-0.1	1.7	4.2	-0.6	-0.4	-1.6	4.2	-0.5	-0.9	
	Marathon		Oneida		Portage		Vilas		Wood					
	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change	Sep 2004	1-month change
Total jobs, all industries*	71,000	500	500	18,400	-660	50	34,700	1,300	130	-240	8,300	-720	440	20
Const., min'g & nat. resources	2,900	-100	0	1,380	-40	40	1,180	-50	50	60	970	-30	-20	-20
Manufacturing	18,500	-200	400	1,310	-40	-100	5,400	-40	-280	-40	410	-20	-70	-340
Trade (w/wholesale & retail)	13,700	-100	-300	4,100	-130	80	5,600	340	130	40	1,450	-70	70	-200
Transport, Wrhsng, Utilities	3,000	200	100	450	40	-10	1,940	10	20	0	130	20	110	90
Financial activities	4,900	0	-100	550	-10	-10	4,000	-10	-30	40	400	-10	-10	40
Education & health services	7,300	100	0	3,100	-20	0	3,400	0	240	20	790	-10	30	320
Leisure & hospitality	5,200	-300	100	2,600	-570	140	3,500	-90	130	-100	1,630	-670	-130	100
Info, prof, bus. & other srvc	7,700	0	300	2,400	-60	-10	4,000	30	50	-40	620	-30	-10	130
Government	7,800	900	0	2,500	160	-70	5,600	1,110	-190	80	1,930	80	470	-90
Civilian Labor Force**	78,000	-800	260	21,700	-1,410	-310	40,600	590	290	-170	11,600	-790	-500	-170
Employed	75,400	-450	520	20,800	-1,360	-260	39,100	1,000	300	-140	11,100	-730	-90	0
Unemployed	2,500	-350	-260	900	-50	-40	1,430	-410	0	-60	410	-60	-410	-180
Unemployment rate (%)	3.2	-0.4	-0.4	4.2	0.1	-0.1	3.5	-1.1	0.0	-0.2	3.6	-0.2	-1.0	-0.4

Estimates are NOT seasonally adjusted. Current month estimates are preliminary. Numbers ≥ 2,000 are rounded to nearest 100; numbers < 2,000 rounded to nearest 10. Sub-units may not add to totals due to rounding. Calculations based on unrounded numbers; results rounded.

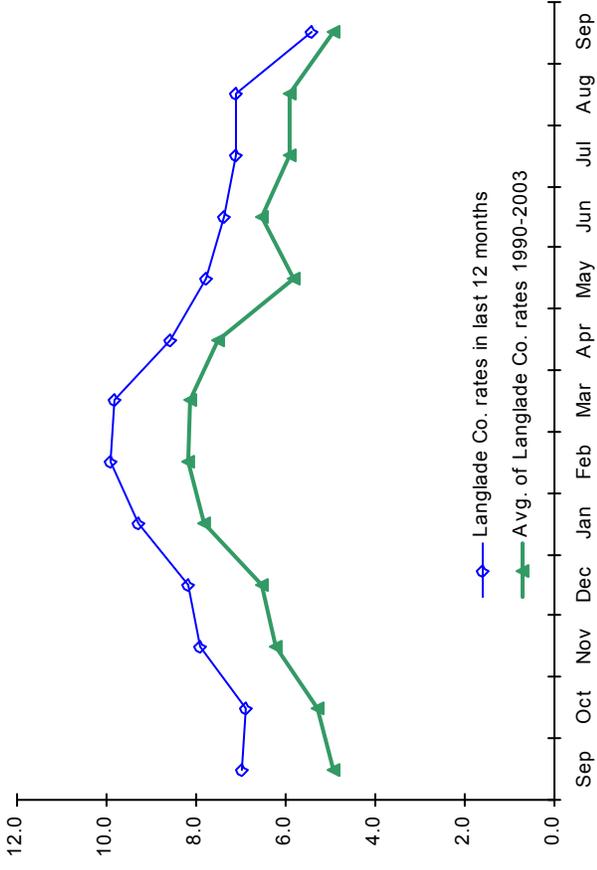
*Includes jobs with employers in area. ** Includes labor force participants residing in area.

For more information call (608) 242-4885, email dan.bairrollnet@dwd.state.wi.us, or see <http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/oes/>.

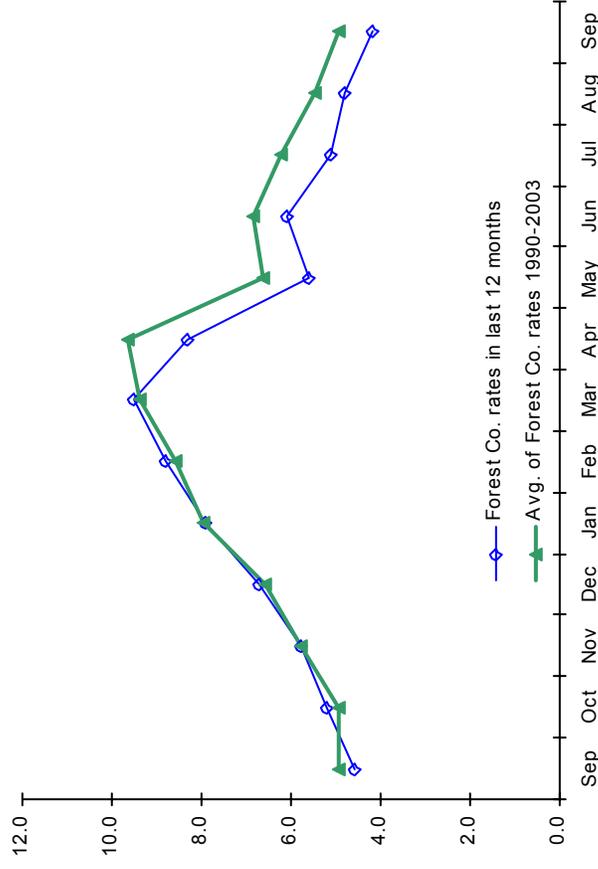
Unemployment rates - not seasonally adjusted



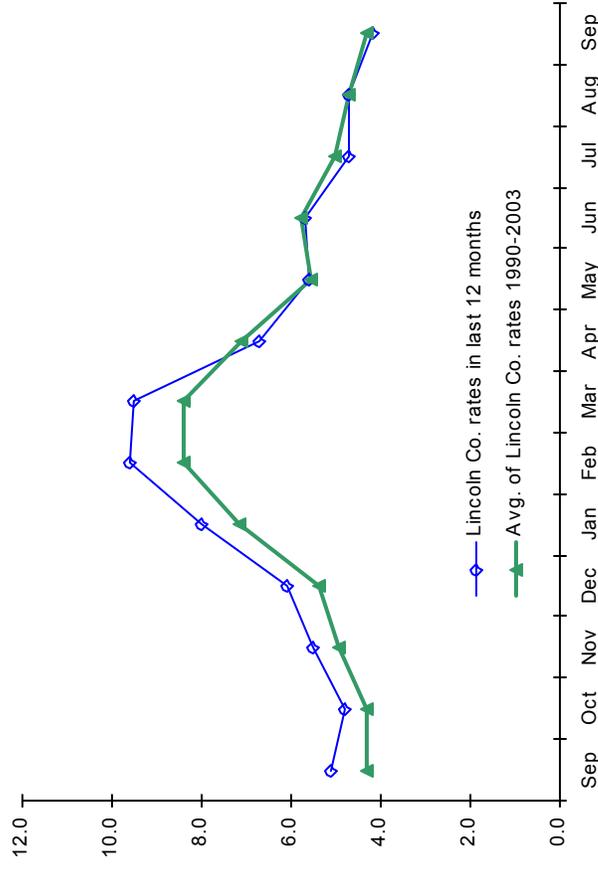
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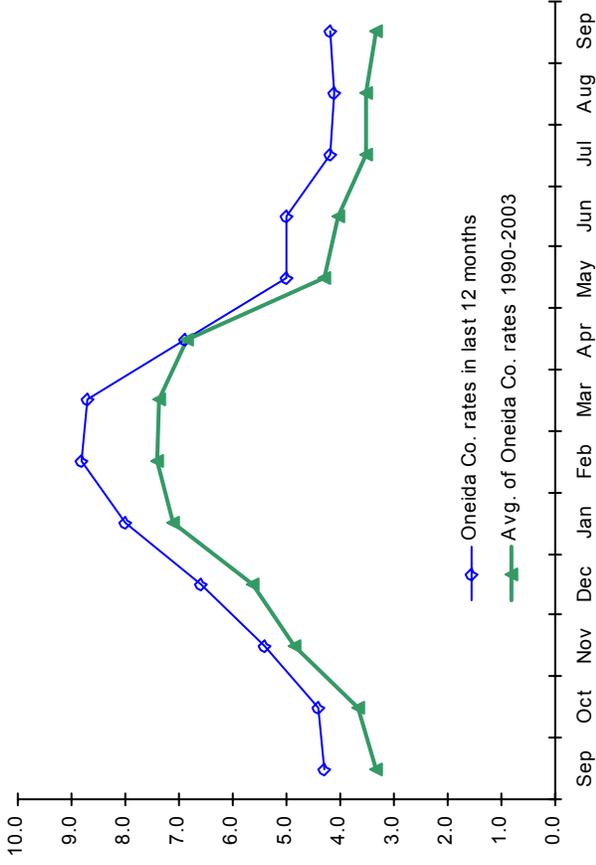
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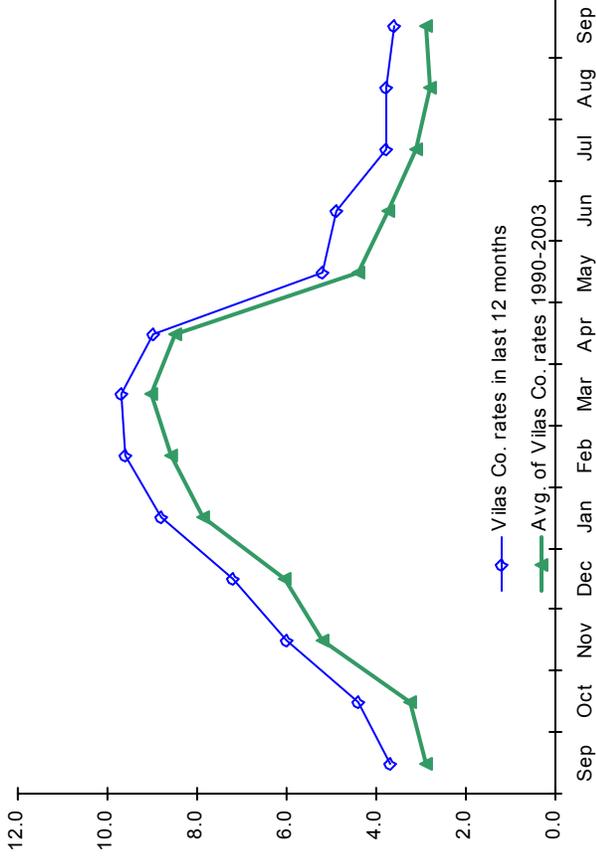
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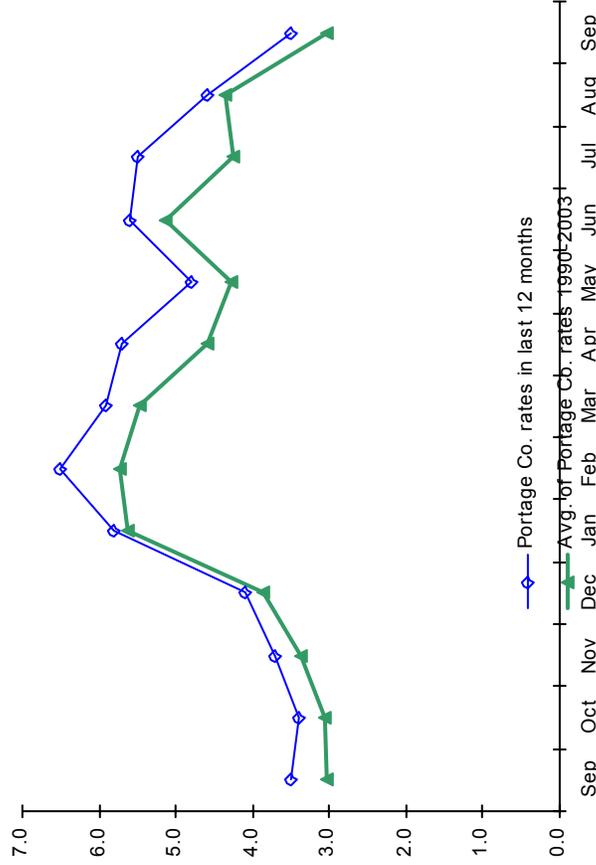
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